## THE THEATERS



THOMAS W. ROSS AND HATHERINE MULHINS IN "CHECKERS" CENTURY.

Mr. Short's season will go gayly forward this year, with no rest in sight for manager or men in the box office. Mr. Wilson is to have another week at the Olympic, after which we are to have two weeks of the only striking novelty of this season—Fraulein Fritzi Scheff in "Bab." season-Fraulein Fritzi Scheff in "Bab-

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Fraulein Scheff has never been heard in St. Louis. Indeed, she has been known to the opera stage but four or five years. and most of that time has been spent on the other side of the billowy Atlantic. She is now under the management of Mr. Dillingham, after a brief experience in grand opera at the Metropolitan in New York. Scheff was most excellent as the grande artiste, but as the frisky person of much fun in a comic play, set to music, she is of more value to herself, to her manager and to the public.

The young woman was born in Vienna twenty-five years ago. Now she sings in German. French, Italian and English so well that each country feels that she was born to its language. Scheff is really vary. Austrian in manner and appearance a weakness (or strength) that she won't soon lose, for the reason that your ladies of gay Vienna don't soon drop the piquancy to which they are native.

Mr. Dillinghum, who is the marager of Fraulein Scheff, is the only impresario now alive who has mastered the plan of managing two or three young feminine

managing two or three young feminine stars at one and the same time.

When the late Mr. Daly brought Netherpole to the United States, he found himself severely handicapped by having managerial rights to the career of Miss Reham. As a result, Miss Nethersole was soon shifting for herself. When Mr. Tyler took up Miss Robson, he found, within a few weeks, that he was not manager of Miss Viola Allen.

Mr. Dellingham is now managing Scheff and Maxine Elllott, and is seon to take over the management of Lulu Glaser. The wonder of the Schiff-Elllott combination is not so great, for the reason that one is in music and the other is an actress of modern come's; but when you contemplate the fact that Scheff and Glaser are of the same are, both lovely to the eye and both in comic opera of the most modern sort, you understand that Dillingham has the managorial instinct in real earnest. Next year this new figure in the world of notabe managers will be stronger than ever. He will have a new theater in Phindelphia and several stars, with whom he is now framing contracts.

With life and bealth, Dillingham will in ten years be the Frohmun-Palmer-Daly of the day. He has a thing that most managers of note have not-cultivated intelligence.

Nine out of ten theatrical directors can-

gers of note have not—cultivated intellgence.

Nine out of ten theatrical directors cannot write two sentences in good English,
and as for speaking it—the thing's too
funny to be considered. Dillingham was
born with a long head and a high brow.
His mother and father guarded both, and
there were many years of schooling as a
part of the training.

Dillingham came away from the university equipped with things that most managers, unfortunately, do not comprehend.
He spent some time with Mr. Charles
Frohman, and is yet in the confidence of
that asinte personality; but Dillingham's
paths lie toward success unaided, and
there he will arrive.

He is one of the few men in theatrical
America with the nerve to decline the

Joseph Jefferson chatted entertaingly of the season's dearth of plays in Philadelphia the other day:

"There have been many complaints of

phia the other day:

"There have been many complaints of late that our plays are bad or medicety," remarked the interviewer. "If such is the case, how can the shortcomings of the playwrights be explained?"

"The drama is always in a state of transition." Mr. Jefferson replied. "It moves from good to bad and back to good again. Under existing-circumstances, the theatrical managers are doing the best they can.

"A manager does not want to produce anything but the best plays. He is getting all of them that are available. He places on the stage works of competent American playwrights.

"He goes to Europe and obtains the best that foreign theaters afford, provided he thinks they will suit our playgoers."

"Is it a fact, then, that the theaters of of this country and their domands have grown faster than the number of available dramatists?"

"That is the logical conclusion. The gift of playwriting is an exceedingly rare one. Senator Hoar spoke to me some time ago of this apparent dearth of dramatists. I replied that it was unreasonable to expect that Americans of to-day should produce in a comparatively short time plays which would compare with the great dramas of literature.

"Look at the growth of the old Euglish drama from Shakespeare, through such men as Beaumont and Fetcher, Congreve and Wycherly down to the more recent authors. like Sheridan, Bulwer and Knowles. This drama took 200 years to build.

"It has been acted and commented upon no often that we see it from every work.

authors. like Sheridan, Bulwer and Knowles. This drama took 200 years to build.

"It has been acted and commented upon so often that we see it from every possible viewpoint. Is it fair or right to expect a modern dramatist in a comparatively short space of time to produce works equal to thelrs?"

"With the wonderful possibilities for the drama ir this country, must not high ideals be insisted upon?"

"Yes, but do not forget the purposes of the drama." Mi. Jefferson repiled. "The primary object of the theater is to entertain. That must slways be borne in mind. "The other important object is to educate. The stage is not a place for sermoning. If people want to preach, let them do so in the church or theshome.

"The leasons of the theater, on the other hand, are taught by suggestions, the delineation of character and more or less unconscious examples, all in the guise of entertainment."

"There must be as many kinds of plays as there are kinds of people. "The Rivals," for instance, does not appeal at all to people for whom a more excitlar, primitive play becomes a living force. Other theaterpoers like The Rivals, and while smilling at the simpler play, too often forget the good purpose served by its performance.

"Each class, however, should have

often forget the good purpose its performance.

"Each class, however, should have plars raised to some degree above its ca-pacity for appreciation. Thus the public taste is slowly but surely raised and edu-

The Rose Cecilia Shay Opera Company begins the second week of its stay at the Odeon to-night in "The Bohemian Girt." This opera will be given until Thursday,

comic opera by Victor Herbert. Her career has been brief, but eventful. She was born twenty-five years ago in Vien-na. Her mother, Frau Scheff-Yeager, is an opera singer of note, and her father, a physician. She made her debut at the had ordered a carriage to meet him at Munich Opera-house when she was 20 years old. Her success was so instanta-neous that she quickly secured engage-Covent Garden, London. Here she attracted the attention of Maurice Grau and became a member of his organization.
She left Mr. Grau at the end of last

When Frank Daniels was playing "The Office Boy" in Cincinnati, he was confronted with a problem concerning the inequalities of the profession.

On the second night of his enga there was a heavy rainstorm. Mr. Daniels the stage door to convey him to his hotel, and he had invited Manager Dillingham to accompany him. Now, "The Office Boy" company has in its membersalp a whole lot of pretty girls. Daniels is a rather glow dresser, but as he emerged from his dressing-room in street attire he "Checkers" will again be seen at the Century noticed that one particularly pretty girl Theater to-night. It was at this theater that

OPEN SATURDAYS

DEVA TAMBUAY PARK HIGHEANDS. had not departed. He and Mr. Dilling-ham went outside the theater just as a handsome brougham with a coachman dashed up to the door. Daniels and Dil-lingham made a break for the vehicle and

lingham made a break for the vehicle and were about to enter when a heavy masculine voice from the depth within growled:

"What's the matter with you fellows, anyhow?"

Danlels stepped aside just as the belated chorus girl slipped into the carriage. She was whirled away and Danlels stood in the storm speechless with astonishment. His cab did not show up, and as he trudged hotelward through the rain ho remarked to Mr. Dillingham:

"On a night like this I'd rather be a chorus girl any time than only a poor. little star comedian."

Reports are current that William Coiller will invade London next season with his light and Geren's production, will be the offerwill invade London next season with his light and Geren's production, will be the offerwill invade London next season with his

will invade London next season with his old piece, "On the Quiet," and his most recent piny, "The Dictator," 'by Richard Harding Davis. "The Dictator" has made one of the hits of the season in New York. farce, dealing with a Latin-American revolution. Brooke Travers (Mr. Collier) is olution. Brooke Travers (Mr. Collier) is an American who has been forced to escape from New York to Porto Banyos, in Spanish America. He takes the place of the American Consul, becomes entangled in a revolution, buys an army and finally becomes a dictator. The humor of the place seems to consist of the clever use of recent American ideas against a background of Old World traditions. Louise Allen (Mrs. Collier) is playing the role of Senora Juanita Arguilla, a jealous Spaniard, and Nanette Comstock is appearing as Lucy Sheridan, an American girl, with whom Travers falls in love.

A dramatization of "The Pit" was recently produced in the Apollo Theater,

cently produced in the Apollo Theater, London, and was received with favor. The English play is called "The Wheat King." The scene in the wheat pit and the de tails of Curtis Jadwin's corner in wheat were new and fascinating to the English

were new and lascinating to the audience.

The critics preferred the parts of the play which dealt with Judwin's business affairs to those which had to do with his wife. As one paper said: "Lovers are an old, old story, but the financial dealings of Curtis Jadwin are new to the stage and as fascinating as they are puzzling."

Katherine Grey will originate the role of Courtis Jacket in Octave Mirabeau's

of the opera. Mr. Dupree is responsible for the present version of "Wang." Minnie Dupree is his sister, and he first gained fame twenty years ago in San Francisco with his "Lasca."

Virginia Earl is to enter the vaudeville field, and is rehearsing some new songs She will make her debut next week.

Maurice Campbell has arranged to produce George C. Harleton's new play, "The Raven," on September 13 next. The piece is founded on the life of Edgar Allen Poc. and the leading part will be played by Frederick Lewis.

CURRENT ENGAGEMENTS.

Francis Wilson commences hi Francis Wilton commences his record week in "Deminic" at the Olympic to-morpow evon-ing. The revival attracted a big patronage last ing. The revival attracted a big patromage last work. Mr. Wilson himself, as Cadric, a quite as family as ever. Jesus farthest Davis, Marquerin Syrin and some Bune are among the other principals. A younge meaner of the Stoderick family has been chosen to encound the into Williams Broderick in the company.

"Tack State Polks" will begin a special World's Poly engagement of two weeks at the Grand Opera-nouse. Fred E. Wright's company gives the same effective performance originally seem here. "Took State Polks" with

Fupo." I make July and July an

Prances Merton has been engaged to play Dixis in the Delmar presentation of "Louis-sna." Miss Merton was formeely a member of Hichard Christo compatry in The Tenders foot. It is said that her best may said the "A Typical Southern Old." The lyriso of which were written by Haun W. Haye the proof which were written by Haun W. Haye the proof of which were written by Haun W. Haye the proof of Jonathan, the American type cartestured by the English so many years as. Front O. Hill is to be seen in this part. Mande Linauhert will appear as Chlumbia and W. G. Stebenet as Davy Crockett.

of the pieca.

'The Stain of Guilt," John H. Haviin and William Garan's production, will be the effering at Haviin's. It is melodrams of the strenuous type full of startling situations and sensational climanes, but not without a vein of comedy. The scenic equipment registres a special car. An Italian street singer, known as Chiquita, is the principal role. This part is to be played by Miss Lillian Stymours. Mattie Lockett of St. Louis will be seen in a southwette part.

Eva Tanguay, prima donna of "The Chap-erona," will appear at Forest Park Highlands. She was the hit of that comedy. Early this

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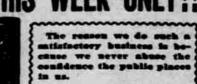
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